



Press Release

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Idaho Potato Production Lowest Since 1989

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 114 million cwt, unchanged from the November forecast and down 14 percent from last year's 133 million cwt. If realized, this would be the least production in Idaho since 1989. Planted acres of 295,000 and harvested acres of 294,000 are down 25,000 acres from 2009. Harvested acreage is at the lowest level since 1980. Statewide, yield is 389 cwt (field-run basis), down 26 cwt from last year's record high yield per acre. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 550 cwt, increased 50 cwt from 2009 and is a record high for this area. Acreage for the 10 Southwest counties, at 16,000 acres planted and harvested, decreased 3,000 acres from last year. Because of the acreage decrease, total production in the area is down 7 percent from last year at 8.80 million cwt. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 380 cwt, compared to a record 410 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 278,000 harvested acres is expected to total 106 million cwt, 14 percent below last year's 123 million cwt.

Data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey shows that 20.0 percent of the russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, down from 23.2 percent that reached that size in 2009 and 28.1 percent that reached that size in 2008. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2010 sample, 74.2 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, down from 76.6 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 21.1 percent of the 2010 crop.

National production of fall potatoes for 2010 is forecast at 361 million cwt, down slightly from the November 1 forecast and down 8 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 882,800 acres, is slightly above the November 1 forecast but 4 percent below the 2009 estimate. The average yield forecast, at 409 cwt per acre, is down 1 cwt per acre from the November 1 forecast and 20 cwt per acre below last year's record high yield.

Idaho's 2010 dry edible bean production totaled 2.48 million cwt, up 25 percent from last year's production of 1.98 million cwt. This is the largest dry bean crop in Idaho since 1994. Planted acreage of 135,000 and harvested acreage of 134,000 increased from last year's 100,000 acres planted and 99,000 acres harvested. Average yield was 1,850 pounds per acre, down 150 pounds from the previous year.

Nationally, U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 31.3 million cwt for 2010, up 23 percent from 2009. Harvested area is forecast at 1.83 million acres, 25 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,706 pounds per acre, a decrease of 31 pounds from 2009. Production is expected to be higher in 12 of the 17 States in the dry bean program in 2010. The top five producing States all showed increased production from last season. Production in North Dakota, the largest producing State, was up 34 percent from a year ago, while Michigan increased 20 percent from 2009. Minnesota and Nebraska's production increased 22 percent and 26 percent, respectively. Idaho's production is up 25 percent from last season.

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